



September 16, 2013

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Subcommittee on Water Resources
and Environment
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water Resources and
Environment
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member Rahall, Chairman Gibbs, and Ranking Member Bishop:

The members of the National Waterways Conference would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to the nation's water resources infrastructure and for introducing H.R. 3080, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013.

Our water resources infrastructure provides life-saving flood control, needed water supplies, shore protection, water-based recreation, environmental restoration, and hydropower production, essential to our economic well-being. Moreover, waterways transportation is the safest, most energy-efficient and environmentally sound mode of transportation.

Regular authorizations to permit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address critical water resources needs are essential to our nation's economic vitality and environmental well-being. Our nation simply cannot afford the negative economic impacts, the diminished export capabilities and the detriment to our way of life that surely would result if we fail to continue these investments. The Congress has a vital role to play in these important investment decisions and should assure that the decisions are reached through an open and inclusive process where the needs and priorities of all are considered. To that end, we are especially supportive of the provisions applicable to project authorizations that will ensure that the Congress, non-federal project sponsors and local communities play a meaningful role in this process.

*Dedicated to a greater
understanding of the
widespread public benefits
of our nation's water
resources infrastructure.*

Telephone:
(703) 224-8007
Fax:
(866) 371-1390
Web Site:
www.waterways.org

Equally important are the provisions to accelerate and streamline project delivery, enhance transparency, and provide for increased participation by non-Federal interests. These much-needed reforms will ensure that critical investments in water infrastructure projects are investments in our nation's long-term security.

Thank you for your continued leadership on these important issues. We look forward to working with the Committee as you move forward with this comprehensive and bipartisan legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy W. Larson".

Amy W. Larson, Esq.
President
National Waterways Conference, Inc.

The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is the only national organization to advocate for the enactment of common sense policies recognizing the widespread public benefits of our nation's water resources infrastructure. Membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water districts, engineering consultants and state and local governments. www.waterways.org